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21 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Inter-Agency Views on NIE-52: The Probable Future Orientation of Japan

BACKGROUND

1. This estimate was authorized by the DCI on 11 October 1951 and was produced under a routine priority. It is based on excellent contributions, especially that of the Department of State. The estimate was discussed fully by the Princeton consultants.

SUBSTANCE

2. The agency representatives accepted the Conclusions and the Discussion. No substantive disagreement is anticipated at the IAC meeting.

3. The OIR representatives felt that TAB "A", "Japan's Development as a Modern State" placed too much emphasis on the military leadership as the central factor in Japan's prewar development. The Board pointed out that the TAB had been approved by Dr. Langer, Ambassador Grew and other authorities, and that the other agency representatives all agreed that the TAB was satisfactory. The OIR representatives indicated that they preferred their original contribution but would accept the existing TAB rather than have the TAB omitted entirely.

COMMENT ON LENGTH OF PAPER

4. The Discussion is unusually long for an NIE. The Board felt, and the agency representatives agreed, that a detailed examination of the situation in Japan was justified since this is the first overall look at Japan on the national intelligence level, since this paper will be used in conjunction with the formulation of long range policy on Japan, and since the paper will serve as background for future estimates on Japan.

5. Furthermore, the length of this estimate is in keeping with the interest of the NSC Senior Staff in full papers accompanied, where appropriate, with supporting appendices.

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Distribution:

Addressee

O/DD/I

SHERMAN FENT

Assistant Director

National Estimates

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